



Georgia Department of Transportation Fact Sheet

The **DIRTY** Facts: Litter in Georgia

- In 2000, Georgia DOT maintenance crews picked up more than **2 million bags of trash** from Georgia's interstates and highways.
- During just four days in April 2001, DOT crews picked up 79,000 bags of trash, which equals the weight of 12 average elephants and stacks as high as five Mount Everests.
- More than **\$12 million** was spent in 2001 for litter pickup in Georgia. This cost is expected to **rise by 20 percent annually** as more and more vehicles travel Georgia's highways and interstates.
- Despite the high costs, Georgia DOT litter pickup efforts do not solve the litter problem. Litter reappears on Georgia's roadsides within days after clean up.
- Three out of four Georgia motorists say they have seen trash thrown out of a vehicle, yet only one in ten admit to littering from their vehicle.
- Each Georgia resident disposes of approximately 6.3 pounds of trash each day.
- Eight out of ten motorists believe people litter because it is easier than saving trash to discard later.
- Much of the litter on interstates is **debris from unsecured loads** on commercial trucks, particularly trucks hauling garbage.
- There are currently 11 Litter Control Laws in Georgia. Those convicted on littering faces fines up to \$1,000 and can be ordered to pick up litter themselves.
- The most commonly found items during roadside litter clean ups are cigarette butts, fast food wrappers and aluminum cans.
- More than 400 organizations are currently active in Georgia's Adopt-A-Highway program. These groups pick up trash on about 550 miles of Georgia's highways and interstates.